

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

DI Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing dye-containing polymer particles, comprising:

containing preparing a solution of at least one dye in a matrix of an essentially and a water-insoluble polymer dissolved in a water-miscible organic solvent; and

continuously comixing in a static mixing nozzle the dye/polymer solution with an aqueous phase at relative rates sufficient to precipitate dye-containing polymer particles ranging in size having an average particle size within the range from 5 nm to 5 μ m 500 nm; which comprises: precipitating the polymer particles from a solution of the polymer and of the at least one dye in a polymer matrix ~~water-miscible organic solvent~~ by continuously mixing this solution with an aqueous phase.

Claim 13. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the precipitating of the polymer particles is effected in the presence of a protective colloid.

Claim 14. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the polymer contains (in each case based on the total weight of the polymer) from 30 to 100 % by weight of at least one monomer a, from 0 to 60 % by weight of at least one monomer b

having polar groups and from 0 to 30 % by weight of at least one further monomer c, different from monomer a, in polymerized form.

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Claim 15. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the monomer a is selected from the group consisting of esters of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C_3-C_8 monocarboxylic acids or C_4-C_8 -dicarboxylic acids with C_1-C_{12} -alkanols, vinyl esters of C_1-C_{12} monocarboxylic acids, aromatic vinyl compounds and C_2-C_6 olefins.

Claim 16. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the monomer b is selected from the group consisting of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C_3-C_8 -monocarboxylic acids, α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C_4-C_8 -dicarboxylic acids with C_1-C_{12} -alkanols and anhydrides thereof, aromatic vinylcarboxylic acids, monoethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids and phosphonic acids, esters of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C_3-C_8 -monocarboxylic acids with amino- C_2-C_8 -alkanols, mono- C_1-C_4 -alkylamino- C_2-C_8 -alkanols or di- C_1-C_4 -alkylamino- C_2-C_8 -alkanols, N-vinyl lactams and esters of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C_3-C_8 -monocarboxylic acids with C_2-C_8 -hydroxyalcohols or the ethoxylated or propoxylated derivatives thereof.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the dye-containing polymer particles have a particle size ~~within the range from 5 nm to 500 nm and with a particle size~~ distribution width of $\leq 40\%$.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

